



BACKSTAGE BULLETIN

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear Friends,

We've officially entered the fifth year of our *Backstage Bulletin*. Over the past four years we've shared with you the impact of your philanthropy across our venues and programs through a variety of stories within the pages of this newsletter. We've also introduced you to our donors, as well as members of our staff, who keep Paramount and our mission moving forward.

This year we will continue to share the story of Paramount and your important contributions to our mission.

We held our very first sensory friendly performance at Paramount Theatre during *Frozen*, continuing to expand our accessibility initiatives. We successfully launched our Spark Lab (Pg.3) part of the New Works Program to showcase and celebrate emerging artists and their works. And, we had the privilege of announcing a transformational one-million-dollar gift from the Aurora Women's Empowerment Foundation in support of our Paramount School of the Arts and New Works programming.

These important moments wouldn't be possible without the support from all of you. You continue to uplift us every step of the way and I know that by the time our next issue of *Backstage Bulletin* comes around we will have more exciting moments to share with you.

On behalf of everyone at Paramount—thank you!

With Gratitude, Tim Rater

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 13

Last Day to Renew for the
2025/26 Season

APRIL 28

2025/26 BOLD Series
Single Tickets on Sale

APRIL 30 – JUNE 15

Cats
at Paramount Theatre

MAY 5

Paramount School of the Arts
Spring Showcase

JUNE 16

2025/26 Broadway Series
Single Tickets on Sale



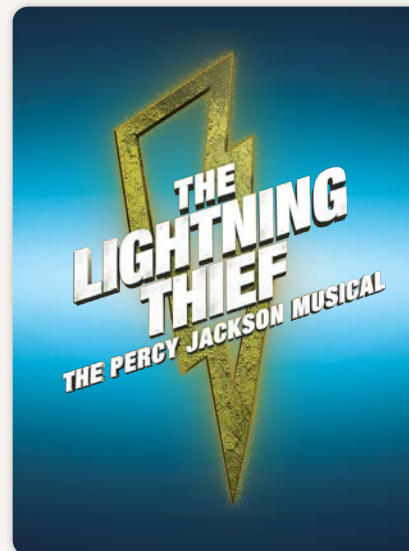
PARAMOUNT
THEATRE



PSA's 2024 Paramount
Performance Camp,
Mean Girls Jr.

DONOR DIGEST

This Year's PSA Performance Camp Generously
Supported by GreenState Credit Union



We're excited to share that GreenState Credit Union is supporting Paramount School of the Arts' third annual performance camp as the marquee sponsor. This 4-week program takes place in June and is extremely popular amongst PSA students, selling out within a week and a half! It features 50 PSA students, grades 5-12, and culminates in two performances on the Paramount Theatre stage. This year's production is *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*.

GreenState Credit Union has been a supporter of Paramount Theatre since 2023, sponsoring productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Frozen*. Mandy Lesko, Public Relations Specialist with GreenState Credit Union shared, "GreenState Credit Union was inspired to partner with Paramount Theatre because of your success with putting out award-winning and highly entertaining shows and your commitment to your corporate partners."

This year's gift in support of PSA is especially important as Mandy noted, "***Our recent partnership with Paramount School of the Arts was really inspired by the opportunity to give back where it was needed most, in education.***"

It's an honor to have GreenState join us in our mission to make the arts accessible to all through their generous gift for this summer's Paramount Performance Camp.



sparklab
PARAMOUNT NEW WORKS

PARAMOUNT'S NEW WORKS PROGRAM IGNITES A SPARK ...WITH ITS INAUGURAL SPARK LAB STAGED READING

In February, Paramount Theater launched a new series, The Spark Lab, dedicated to the creation, development, and visibility of new works-in-progress for the stage. The program supports artists in a week-long workshop process culminating in a public presentation of the piece.

Our first project selected was the play-in-progress, *Blood of My Mother's* by Chicago playwright Karissa Murrell Myers. Through the Spark Lab, Karissa had the opportunity to work with actors, a dramaturg, language and intimacy consultants, and director Denise Yvette Serna, to put together a staged reading presentation of her current draft of the script.

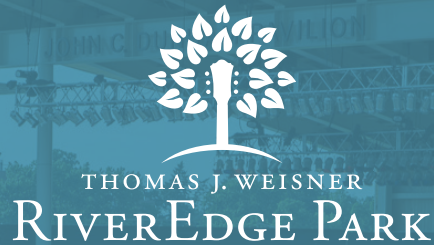
The script features a story about a Filipino-American family navigating generational family dynamics, cultural identity, and hidden secrets. About 80 people attended the event and were welcomed to stay for a short Q&A session with the playwright, director, and actors involved.



From left: Director Denise Yvette Serna and Playwright Karissa Murrell Myers at the inaugural reading

"If we can have this kind of rigorous joy...we're here to work but we're going to have a good time doing it and we're going to support each other. We all have our eye on the same goal...to make the piece stronger."

—KARISSA MURRELL MYERS



RIVEREDGE PARK CLOSED THIS SUMMER FOR FACILITY UPGRADES

Due to facility improvements this summer, RiverEdge Park will be closed for the season. The construction at the park will include multiple improvements across the grounds to further enhance both the artist and guest experience.

At the south end of park (by the bridge), there will be a grand plaza-style entrance which includes a box office, where our guests can connect with our staff to address any needs that may arise. Guests will be able to enter the park via the bridge, through a new direct entrance, or from the sidewalk along Broadway.

Lawn seating closest to the stage also gets upgraded to make concert viewing more enjoyable. There will be four tiered concrete sections on the hill, as well as a concrete ramp and rails leading up to these sections. The lower part of the hill will continue to have grass for blankets. Directly behind the hill will be a new permanent 16-window beverage pavilion. Plus, additional space for food trucks is being added toward the south end of the park.

Backstage, the venue transforms from a one-dressing-room venue to a proper artist building that includes multiple dressing rooms, workspaces for tour managers, a green room, kitchen, dining area, visiting crew showers,

bathrooms, security office and storage space... all essential to continue to draw top talent in this competitive market.

Finally, we're adding a permanent restroom building with 24 new facilities for women, 18 for men, and 4 unisex/family rooms. It will be at the top of the hill between gates three and four. We're also adding two jumbotrons at the bottom of the grass hill along the walkway leading to the bridge to enhance patrons' experiences when sitting in that area.

These facility upgrades will also create additional expansion opportunities for Christkindlmarket which brought over 275,000 visitors to Aurora last year. In addition to enhancing the concert going experiences for our patrons, these spaces will also provide long-term naming opportunities for sponsors and donors, further adding to the important legacy of philanthropy in Aurora.

If you'd like to learn more about the upgrades at RiverEdge Park or if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities for our 2026 season, please reach out to Joel Friend, Director of Corporate Giving and Sponsorship, at joelf@paramountarts.com or 630-723-2470.



JOIN US IN NEW YORK THIS FALL!

OCTOBER 24 – 27 • DECEMBER 5 – 8

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Paula Rae Brown at 331.684.1457 or paularaeb@paramountarts.com